

APPLICANT: Avner SHAFRIR, et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/580,904
DOCKET NO.: 23452-110
CUSTOMER NO.: 29315

Remarks

Claims 1-31 are all the claims pending in this application. Claims 30 and 31 have been added. No new matter is included. Selected claims are amended to clarify and more particularly indicate the claimed subject matter. The amendments are made for the purpose of expediting prosecution and are not made to overcome claim rejections. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the rejected claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing remarks.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Mirabilis Ltd., Quick Tour (“Quick Tour”) in view of ICQ Inc., ICQ Email Signature (“ICQ Email Signature”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the following basis.

Independent claims 1, 6, 13, 18, 26, 27, 28 and 29 essentially recite the features of generating two or more types of electronic documents using two or more types of applications, presenting one or more user indicators within the two or more types of electronic documents and presenting at least the status indicator and the one or more user indicators, wherein the status indicator indicates the status of network users via the two or more types of applications, among other things. In an exemplary embodiment, network users may determine the status of other network users *wherever* a user indicator is presented within electronic documents created using two or more different system applications, wherein the electronic documents include e-mail, an HTML document or any other electronic document (see the specification at page 5, lines 25-30).

Quick Tour discloses how to download and install the ICQ application, how to register a new ICQ user, and how to configure the ICQ application. Quick Tour further discloses an

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availability status option that is configured as a drop down window, wherein the drop down window is generated by the ICQ application (see pages 4 and 5 of Quick Tour). [There is no teaching or suggestion in Quick Tour for enabling an application other than the ICQ application to generate the drop down status window.] As a result, Quick Tour is deficient at least because it fails to teach or suggest generating two or more types of electronic documents using two or more types of applications and presenting one or more user indicators within the two or more types of electronic documents.

Regarding claim 1, the Examiner alleges that Quick Tour discloses status indicator presentation means that provides a status indicator and user indicators associated with the status indicators (see page 3 of the December 23, 2003 Office Action). Applicants submit that claim 1 recites that the status indicator presentation means presents at least the status indicator and the user indicators in two or more types of electronic documents to provide the status of network users *via the two or more types of applications*. [Quick Tour is therefore further deficient because it fails to teach or suggest presenting at least the status indicator and the one or more user indicators, wherein the status indicator indicates the status of network users *via the two or more types of applications*.]

The Examiner acknowledges that "ICQ, as described and illustrated in Quick Tour, fails to teach presenting one or more user indicators within the at least one electronic document, wherein the at least one electronic document is generated using any of a plurality of applications," (see page 4 of the December 23, 2003 Office Action). The Examiner relies on ICQ Email Signature to provide this deficiency. Applicants submit that ICQ Email Signature is directed to enabling users to include a signature blocks in an e-mail message, so that both users

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that have ICQ installed on their computer and users that do not have ICQ installed on their computer may send messages email directly to the target user's computer (see the first paragraph on page 1 of the ICQ Email Signature). Applicants submit that while the email link in the signature block may provide an easy way to communicate with the creator of the signature block, ICQ Email Signature does not overcome the deficiencies of Quick Tour. [In particular, Quick Tour and ICQ Email Signature, alone and in combination, do not teach or suggest presenting at least the status indicator and the one or more user indicators, wherein the status indicator indicates the status of network users *via the two or more types of applications.*] At best, ICQ Email Signature provides a link to initiate an email communication but does not provide the status of network users.

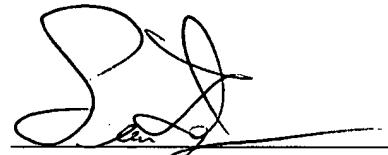
In view of the comments above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, alone and in combination, do not satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Thus, claims independent claims 1, 6, 13, 18, 26, 27, 28, and 29 are believed to be allowable. Furthermore, claims 2-5, 7-12, 14-17, and 19-25 are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency. New claims 30 and 31 are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

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Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such disposition is earnestly solicited. In the event that it is determined that additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0311.

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Respectfully submitted,



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